LA COMUNA
If we understand it as an intermediary between sustainable production processes and good living, as Natura Futura proposes, architecture can become a tool that helps decolonization processes. La Comuna, the recycling and adaptable housing center they developed for a family of garbage collectors in Huaquillas, Ecuador, is a clear example of a practice focused on creating community. Going beyond the mere response to the commission to build decent housing, La Comuna juxtaposes the house with the recycling center, thus visualizing a possible relationship between life, sustainability, subsistence, and community.

**Keywords**
- Transformation
- Community
- Recycling
- Project
- Decolonize
The project originated from a commission made by a private foundation and company to improve the living conditions of a family dedicated to recycling, who was living in unsanitary conditions and without the adequate space to carry out the operations of the recycling process. In a constant dialogue with the city’s development through the different activities it houses inside and outside, La Comuna is positioned as an intermediary that facilitates production-chain processes and promotes the entrepreneurship of its users. Thus, for example, an area of the ground floor functions as a storage and sorting space to improve the productivity conditions of the family, in addition to allowing the interaction with the community. The latter is complemented by the design of containers that facilitate the recycling process, differentiated by the color applied to each structure. All these artifacts are located in strategic sites of the city.

The housing space is both an experiment and project, proposing intervention strategies that consider permeability and self-management of the space. The first strategy is developed through the system of openings in the façade, in which six modules of 12 m² are discernible. The second strategy proposes a flexible habitability in which the user can self-manage their daily living space through rotating panels. This is especially present on the top floor, composed of three modules in which the wheeled furniture acts as a spatial configurator that can move.

The structural system is based on a container divided into six modules that make up the total volume. Each module measures 3 by 4 m and was designed to establish a progressive system that allows an easy expansion of the building. The wood is used in the tradition of the existing buildings in the area; the application of chazas or lattices contributes to the construction of the building.

La Comuna marks a milestone for the city, embodying a radical process of urban and community transformation. The project communicates a discourse of awareness through its façade, calling for reflection on the private and the public through architecture and recycling.
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La Comuna: vivienda adaptable (permeabilidad y autogestión espacial) y espacio productivo (conciencia y economía familiar). Ilustración: Mikaella Dominguez, Daniela Cabrera
LA COMUNA
(espace productivo + vivienda adaptable) / (productive space + flexible housing)

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Natura Futura is a collective/practice of architecture and landscape based in the province of Los Ríos, Ecuador. In 2019 they won the ArchDaily Project of the Year Award for La Comuna, a work of architecture made in collaboration with the practice Frontera Sur.
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